

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to provide a varying scope of protection. It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-38 have been canceled without prejudice and claims 39-62 have been added. Thus, claims 39-62 are pending and are under consideration.

A substitute specification is also being filed herewith. The substitute specification is accompanied by a marked-up copy of the original specification.

Furthermore, a new drawing FIG. 3 has been added.


If there are any questions regarding these matters, such questions can be addressed by telephone to the undersigned. Otherwise, an early action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Dec. 24, 2003

By: 
Gene M. Garner II
Registration No. 34,172

1201 New York Ave, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501